

Senator HEFLIN.

Senator HEFLIN. I just got here. Does somebody else want to ask questions?

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Senator Feinstein.

Senator FEINSTEIN. I have no questions. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Hefflin.

Senator HEFLIN. Well, I have always enjoyed listening to you, and I think you all do a very thorough job on this type of work. I always somewhat feel like somehow you ought to have a professional staff. It calls for a tremendous amount of work that is called upon for each individual member, in particular relative to the Circuit Court of Appeals in the District Court. It does call for a tremendous amount of work. I at one time made a speech on the floor advocating that you consider a staff, but you always felt like it was more of a lawyer approach that you wanted.

But, anyway, we appreciate the effort by the American Bar, and I think it does have a great deal of weight pertaining to nominees, in particular the work that you do reading every opinion and researching everything else. It is rather remarkable that you spend as much time as you do.

But as I understand it, you are unanimous in the highest rating here. Is that correct?

Mr. WILLIS. That is correct, Senator. The entire committee reviewed the entire record and concluded unanimously, without any dissent or abstention, that Judge Ginsburg deserved the highest recommendation.

Mr. BEST. And without any hesitation.

Senator HEFLIN. Well, that is remarkable. Without any debate?

Mr. WILLIS. There was obviously discussion. I don't think it got to the level of debate, but I think that every member participated actively in the discussions that followed the completion of the record.

Senator HEFLIN. I believe that is all.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Gentlemen, again, thank you. Please thank the entire committee. I sincerely mean it when I say that on behalf of the whole committee, we appreciate the incredible amount of work you do, and the service you provide.

Mr. WILLIS. I will do that, Senator, and thank you very much.

Senator HATCH. Mr. Chairman, Senator Grassley may have some questions. His staff member was trying to find him. But what we will do, if we can keep the record open to submit those questions in writing, I think that would be fine.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, that will be done.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Willis follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF WILLIAM E. WILLIS

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is William E. Willis. I practice law in New York City, and I am Chair of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary. With me today is Judah Best of Washington, D.C., one of our Committee members who took a principal role in this investigation.

We appear here to present the views of the American Bar Association on the nomination of the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.